

# PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson  
United States Attorney  
Western District of Wisconsin  
(608) 264-5158  
TTY (608) 264-5006  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw)

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## For Immediate Release

October 12, 2007

## Contact Person

Grant C. Johnson  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Thomas M. McHugh, 67, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 41 months in prison, and ordered to pay a fine of \$500,000. McHugh had previously pleaded guilty to illegally structuring financial transactions to evade the filing of Currency Transaction Reports as required by federal law.

At the plea hearing, McHugh acknowledged that from January 2, 2003 to May 4, 2005, he structured approximately 173 deposits totaling \$1,091,023 at Eau Claire area financial institutions. Federal law requires a financial institution to file Currency Transaction Reports for any cash transactions exceeding \$10,000 and makes it illegal to structure cash deposits with financial institutions in order to evade the filing of Currency Transaction Reports. Each of the 173 deposits were made by McHugh in amounts less than \$10,000.

The charges against Thomas M. McHugh were the result of an investigation conducted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Grant C. Johnson.

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